

**Questions Regarding the Georgia Department of Community Health Request for Quote
(RFQ) for RHC Financial Feasibility Studies – Number Q0205
Submitted by EP&P Consulting, Inc. – January 7, 2003**

1. Has the Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH), Office of Rural Health Services identified Rural Health Clinics (RHCs) interested in becoming Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC)? Please clarify the process by which the ten RHCs for which a feasibility study will be completed will be identified.

At this time there are no RHC that have been “pre-identified” for possible FQHC conversion. It is the intent of DCH-Office of Rural Health Services to allow the successful contractor to establish the best process for such identification given the varying operational levels of RHC within the state. One potential process could include the use of a checklist comprised of pre-determined variables that might indicate readiness for such conversion.

2. Is there an existing RHC workgroup or joint DCH/RHC workgroup that will participate in this process?

DCH-Office of Rural Health Services will participate to the extent that referrals to interested RHC may be facilitated and linkages to other primary care facilities and/or organizations will be encouraged. This is done to ensure inclusion of input from a variety of healthcare providers and special-interest representatives.

3. Are RHCs aware that this feasibility study Request for Quote (RFQ) is being undertaken by the DCH or will it be the successful contractor’s responsibility to outreach to the RHCs regarding this initiative?

The RHC community is not aware that this RFQ has been released. It is the preference of DCH that the successful contractor be principally responsible for initiating contact with RHC that meet the criteria for participation in a feasibility study.

4. Please clarify the bullet on the final page of the RFQ which reads “A summary description of a plan to provide financial feasibility to targeted RHCs from the concept development phase to the implementation phase.” Is the focus of the scope of work to identify which RHCs could potentially qualify to convert to FQHCs; or to identify which RHCs could covert to FQHCs *and* develop a transition plan for how each RHC will convert into an FQHC?

The primary focus of this project is to identify those RHC who could potentially qualify for FQHC conversion; however, the focus could be expanded to include the suggestion of a basic transition plan given the readiness of a particular RHC.